



Frederick County Sheriff's Office  
110 Airport Drive East  
Frederick, MD 21701  
301-600-1046

# News Release

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Issued By: Sgt. Jennifer Bailey, Spokesperson  
Office: 301-600-2534  
Cell: 240-674-7681  
Email: [jbailey@frederickcountymd.gov](mailto:jbailey@frederickcountymd.gov)  
[\*Frederick County Sheriff's Office, MD on Facebook\*](#)  
[www.twitter.com/FredCoSheriff](http://www.twitter.com/FredCoSheriff)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE 04/11/2013**  
**PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT**

## **HOME IMPROVEMENT SCAM ALERT**

The Frederick County Sheriff's Office is reminding citizens to be cautious of scammers offering to do home improvement work like driveway sealants, chimney repair, duct cleaning, hot tar roofing, and metal roof painting. Reputable contractors will be able to provide a company name, address, telephone number, credentials through MHIC (Maryland Home Improvement Commission) and references. Beware of any contractor whose business name can't be verified or whose credentials or license is outdated. Additionally, a scammer will most likely ask to be paid in cash instead of a check, and many times, will request to be paid in advance of the work.

In April of 2013, the Sheriff's Office received three reports of driveway sealing scams from residents living on Alton Road, Harrisville Road and North Clifton Court. In these cases, the suspect stopped by resident's homes and offered to seal their driveways at a discounted price. The suspect claimed he had left over sealant/material from a previous job. The suspect was willing to take cash and checks, but not credit cards as payment.

Citizens should immediately report any suspicious persons or activity to law enforcement. Don't delay, the quicker local law enforcement can get to the area, the more likely the culprits will be apprehended.

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